Happy Holidays!
from MDR staff

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presents

Chapter 4

SAYONARA NOTE

by Tomoe Fumi

scanner xryuchan27

translator Cheez

proofreader xryuchan27

cleaner c94addict

typesetter xryuchan27

qc-er xryuchan27

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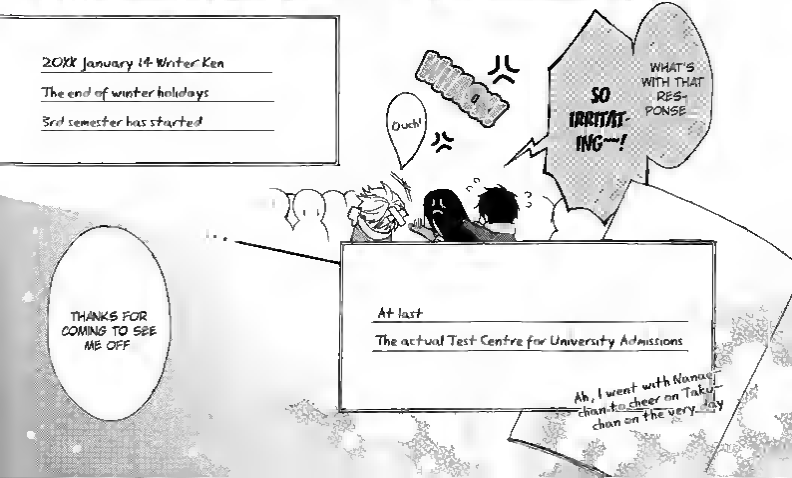
サヨナラノート

WELL,
JUST GO AND DO THE BEST YOU CAN?
DO YOUR BEST, TAKU-CHAN!
.....
YES!
Inner spirit
smartly


20XX January 14 Winter Ken
The end of winter holidays
3rd semester has started
Ouch!
SO IRRITATING~~!
WHAT'S WITH THAT RESPONSE
At last
The actual Test Centre for University Admissions
Ah, I went with Nanase-chan to cheer on Taku-chan on the very day
THANKS FOR COMING TO SEE ME OFF

WELL THEN,
I'M OFF! SEE YOU LATER!
IT WAS NOVEMBER WHEN I REALIZED I LIKE KEN

TWO MONTHS SINCE THEN...
EVENTS THAT WERE DIFFICULT AND SUFFOCATING HAPPENED IN SUCCESSION
STATE
You know, yesterday, with Nanase-chan...
That's great
Oh, ok
BUT,
IF KEN CAN BE SMILING SO HAPPILY, JUST THAT WOULD BE ENOUGH FOR ME
BECAUSE THAT IS MY HAPPINESS...

OF COURSE IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
FIRED UP!
SAIDA, YOU'RE RATHER FIRED UP TODAY AS WELL.
WELL, I HAD VARIOUS THINGS HAPPEN TO ME IN THE MORNING.
You're attracting attention from the other school's students
The person in front is scary
I SEE
TENSE...
OH,
YOU HAVE CHOCOLATE.
LET ME HAVE...
Given by Ken
NOOOO!!!

TENSE
Urgh...
BITES
Ah, is that
THESE ARE MY PRECIOUS CHOCOLATES SO I WON'T HAND THEM OVER TO ANYONE.
That was almost—
BLISS
BLUSH
Taku-chan work hard!!
IT WAS ADORABLE OF KEN TO BE SO WORRIED
...IT WOULD SEEM
I'VE BEEN SWALLOWED UP BY THE FLAMES OF JEALOUSY.
HOWEVER, SURELY, RIGHT NOW, KEN IS...
OH...

IN DROVES
LET'S FORGET ABOUT ALL THE LITTLE THINGS JUST FOR TODAY AND GO ALL OUT!
EH?
PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS HAVE THAT TOO.
Just talking for the sake of it. Can't we do that?
WELL, THERE'S STILL THE SECOND EXAMINATIONS LEFT*, THOUGH.
By the way, why are your guys here?
TAKUMASA, YOU'RE GOING BACK FIRST?
YEAH!
I'M GOING TO STOP BY KEN'S HOUSE!
WELL THEN, I'M GOING!
OKAY-
*TN: First exam is overall university entrance exam, 2nd is for the respective universities.
YEAH!
IT'S OVER !!!
THOSE TWO SURE HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP.
BUT AFTER HIGH SCHOOL EVERYONE'S GONNA GET SEPARATED
THAT'S WHY HE'S SO HUNG UP ON KEN, HUH.
EH?
Like for the cultural festival
Ah-

I ENTRUSTED HIM WITH AN ERRAND
HE SHOULD BE BACK SOON.
You just sure-zenly came in, didn't you
down-hearted
restless
restless
I SEE.
CLANK
KEN ISN'T HERE!?
OH, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL. ♪
I'M BACK!
OJII-CHAN,
I'VE COME TO PLAY! ☆
WA- YOU'VE WORKED HARD AT THE EXAMS!
HOW WAS IT?
GEOGRAPHY WAS KIND OF BAD BUT I WAS SORT OF ABLE TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN MY WEAK SUBJECT - CHEMISTRY. THE OTHER SUBJECTS WENT WELL AS WELL, SO
I THINK I PERFORMED RELATIVELY WELL?
I'VE GOTTEN THE MEDICINE
TAKU-CHAN!?

I SEE...!
I'LL PREPARE SOMETHING SPECIAL SO IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU, WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY FOR DINNER?
IS THAT OKAY!?
OF COURSE!
Hooray!
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
SORRY FOR SUDDENLY COMING UNINVITED AND EVEN INTRUDING FOR DINNER
NO,
I WAS HAPPY TO FINALLY BE ABLE TO HAVE A GOOD TALK AFTER SO LONG
ARE YOU GOING TO SCHOOL TOMORROW?
EH? TOMORROW IS THE DAY WHERE YOU MARK YOUR OWN TEST WITH THE ANSWERS RIGHT?
EVEN IF I GO...
JUST COME
AND, TOMORROW WE CAN FINALLY HANG OUT AFTER SCHOOL AFTER SO LONG
It ends on the morning of the 3rd!
ENTHUSIASTIC
THE TWO OF US!?
YES!
I'LL GO, I'LL GO!
OKAY!
Then, I'll see you tomorrow!

JII-CHAN,
EVEN THOUGH YOU SEEM COLD, YOU'RE ACTUALLY REALLY KIND TOWARDS KEN.
chuckle
Yes.
Ken-
You'll catch a cold if you don't hurry back in.
EVEN FROM NOW ON, THEY WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE PROTECTING KEN.
A WARM HOME AND
A RELIABLE GIRLFRIEND.
THERE-FORE...
YUP
IT'S OKAY.

EVEN IF I'M NOT HERE ANYMORE.
FUU..
IF IT'S THIS, I CAN PROBABLY BE EXEMPTED FROM THE PRELIMINARY TEST...
SCRATCH
How was it?
JUAN!
Is this the feeling that I've climbed the first step to deepening our love~~
Gee~~
HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS, IF IT'S BOUND TO HAPPEN, IT HAPPENS?
Hell.. guys, we can hear you!
WELL..
FOR YOU GUYS, YOU MIGHT NOT UNDERSTAND THOUGH~~~
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
IT SEEMS LIKE HE LOST HIS VIRGINITY
What a shameful guy
Ooh~~~! So cool, Nishikawa!
Threw off all reservation with his classmates
WOW!!

TALKING ABOUT THAT, HOW FAR HAVE KEN AND NANAE GONE?
?
TURNS
H..?
SHAKES
SHAKES
I THOUGHT SO
THEN, KISS-ING...?
SHAKES
SHAKES
SHAKES
..THAT TOO, HUH
WELL FOR SOME REASON THAT WAS AS I'VE EXPECTED, THOUGH
DOESN'T REALLY FEEL MUCH LIKE A PAIR OF LOVES, HUH.
LEANS
Don't just suddenly pass n
Eh
WE'RE... WE'RE A LOVEY-DOVEY COUPLE!
NOT.
Everyone's terrible-
Haha. Sorry, sorry
COULD IT BE THAT IT'S NOT GOING WELL WITH NANAE?

WHAT, NO WAY
DID YOU TAKE EVERYONE'S WORDS SERIOUSLY?
THERE'S NO SUCH THING, SO DON'T WORRY
BUT IN REALITY, YOU TWO HAVEN'T EVEN HELD HANDS, RIGHT?
THAT... THAT IS SO, BUT...
JEEZ!!
AS A GUY, YOU CAN'T BE SO PASSIVE!
BUT.

THINGS SUCH AS HOLDING HANDS, IT'S EASY, ISN'T IT.
LOOK!

...UGH
tightly
nervous
OKAY...

WAA...
THIS... THIS IS
SURPRI-SINGLY HARD...
JEEZ!!
AH~~~
KEN!
YE.. YES!
PULL
LET'S GO!

TODAY'S A DATE REHERSAL!
I PROMISE TO WATCH OVER THEIR HAPPINESS AGAIN FROM TOMORROW ONWARDS SO
THIS LITTLE DESIRE TO MONOPOLIZE,

JUST FOR TODAY, COULD I BE FORGIVEN.
YEAH! IT WAS FUN!
THOUGH IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A DATE REHERSAL BUT WE REALLY JUST PLAYED AROUND.
YEAH.
chuckle
WELL THEN,
WE SHOULD RETURN SO...
SAY,
LAST...
LASTLY,
I'D LIKE IF YOU COULD TEACH ME THE WAY TO KISS AS WELL.
I CAN'T

KEN HAS NAMAE.
I CAN'T POSSIBLY STEP IN FURTHER THAN THIS...
PLEASE...
TAKU-CHAN...
PLEASE... SO...
...KEN

HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO THIS.
CLOSE YOUR EYES.

20XX January 20
Winter Ken

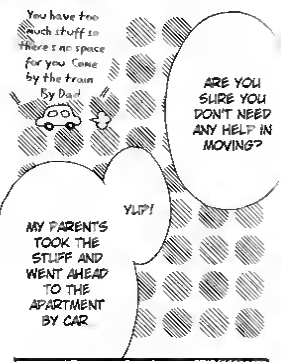
Yesterday, I asked Nanae out on a date
Just like how Taku-chan taught me to I managed to hold her hand
Moreover, thanks to the practice, I succeeded in kissing her too
I was really nervous but I worked hard
peck
If Taku-chan is happy for me, I'll be glad too.
THAT FEBRUARY AND MARCH WERE

AND NOW, THE END OF MARCH...
TAKU-CHAN,
CONGRATU-LATIONS ON PASSING THE EXAMS.
TIME PASSED HUR-RIEDLY
YES!!!
AH.
GRADU-ATION CERE-MONY AND
THE SECOND EXAMI-NATION.
Don't cry...
But...
Not here.
I didn't make it for first half
But the second half is the appor-tunity one therefore, rewind!!
UOOOOOW!!!!

HERE, THE NOTEBOOK.
READ IT LATER.

OKAY.
THANK YOU.

THANKS!
ALSO, THANKS FOR SPECIALLY COMING TO SEE ME OFF, THE BOTH OF YOU
MM

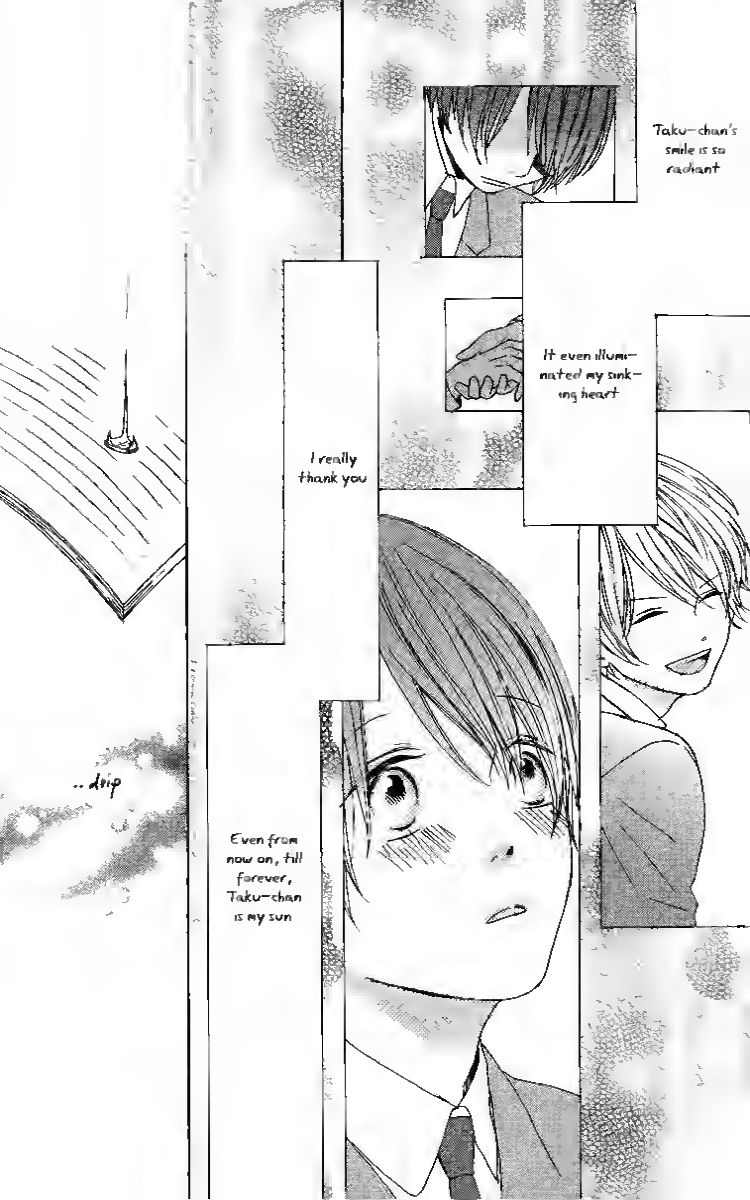

You have too much stuff so there's no space for you. Come by the train. By Dad
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T NEED ANY HELP IN MOVING?
YUP!
MY PARENTS TOOK THE STUFF AND WENT AHEAD TO THE APARTMENT BY CAR.

AH
OH, YEAH.
REACH

YES
ALWAYS WITH THESE HANDS,
BEEP
AH
I HAVE TO GO
GET ALONG WELL, THE TWO OF YOU!

BUT THAT IS NO LONGER MY ROLE,
THERE-FORE...
I'VE WANTED TO PROTECT THAT SMILE.
ALRIGHT.
WITH THIS,
I HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE WITH A SMILING FACE 'TIL THE END
smile

Finally, you're moving to-wards Toky⊙ tomorrow
At the last moment, once more, I'd like to tell you my feelings through this notebook
CLATTER
THUMP
To Taku-chan
It's been 5 years since I've transferred in during the 2nd year of middle school
Taku-chan was always, always together with someone like me
What's with that-
So dear-ly
whisper whisper
Go and talk to him
No way!
BYE-BYE, KEN.
THE PREPARATION FOR LEAVING IS COMPLETED


Taku-chan's smile is so radiant
It even illuminated my sinking heart
I really thank you
Even from now on, till forever, Taku-chan is my sun
..drip

CLATTER
THUMP
CLANG